Specific policy for undeveloped districts

3118. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre proposes to devise specific policy intervention for districts with chronic unemployment and industrial under-development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre has collected the details of such districts; and

(d) if so, the details of such districts located in Orissa, which are proposed to be developed from generation of employment point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Various studies in the past have sought to identify industrially backward regions in the country. More recently, with a view to focus on districts specific cases of industrial backwardness, inter-departmental meetings have been held and the relevant data available is being analysed to finalise and implement concreate policy decisions to address purposively the causes of industrial backwardness in various districts in a calibrated manner.

(c) and (d) In 2005, Planning Commission has identified 170 most backward districts in the country for the purpose of redressing growing regional imbalances. Out of 170 districts in the country, 15 backward districts are in Orissa namely Balangir, Baudh, Debagarh, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhmal, Kendujhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabrangapur, Naupada, Rayagada and Sonapur, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) was launched for securing the livelihood of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household. It has been decided to cover all rural areas of the country under NREGA with effect from 01.04.2008. The program will include districts which have remained under developed including those in the eastern region of the country. Apart from this, the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) was also launched in August, 2006 to cover 250 districts including 170 districts identified as backward by the Inter-Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances.

Request of USA to change M&A Regulation

3119. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has requested for changing the new regulations on governing Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) under the amended Competition Act, including those taking place outside the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the reasons behind such opposition towards Competition Act, particularly M&A rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR):